

REMARKS

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 4, 2004. Claims 17-38 were pending at the time of this office action. Claims 1-16 were previously cancelled by Applicants. Claims 18, 20-23, 29, 31-33, 35 and 36 were rejected. Claim 17 was allowed and Claims 19, 24-28, 30, 34, 37, and 38 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have amended Claims 17-18, 20-21, 23-28, 30, 33, 35 and 37-38 to more fully claim subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled. No new matter has been added. Claims 19 and 34 have been cancelled. Claims 39-44 have been added. The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims as amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate Examiner's consideration and indication that Claim 17 is allowed and that Claims 19, 24-28, 30, 34, and 37-38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended Claim 18 to include the limitations formerly included in Claim 19. Applicants have rewritten Claims 24, 30, and 38 in independent format. Claim 33 has been rewritten to include the limitations formerly included in Claim 34. Inasmuch as Claims 18, 24, 30, 33, and 38 include subject matter indicated as allowable, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of these claims, as amended.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 18, 20-23, 29, 31-33 and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 4,510,351 issued to Peter E. Costello et al. ("Costello") in view of U.S. Patent 5,530,744 issued to Salomi T. Charalambous et al. ("Charalambous").

Independent Claims 18, 24, 30, 33, and 38 have been amended to include subject matter indicated as allowable. Inasmuch as Claims 20-23, 29, 31-32, and 35-36 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claims, Claims 20-23, 29, 31-32, and 35-36 are themselves allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to withdraw its rejection of Claims 20-23, 29, 31-32, and 35-36.

New Claims 39-40

Claims 39-40 have been added to more fully claim subject matter to which the Applicants are entitled. Inasmuch as Claims 39-40 depend, either directly or indirectly, from allowable independent claims, Claims 39-40 are themselves allowable. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request the Office to allow Claims 39-40.

CONCLUSION

The application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed June 21, 2004. Applicants appreciate the Examiner's attention to the application. Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and full allowance of the claims as amended.

Applicants enclose a check in the amount of \$384.00 for the costs of additional claims. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.
Attorneys for Applicants



Edward J. Marshall
Reg. No. 45,395

Date: September 3, 2004

Correspondence Address:

Customer No. **31625**

512.322.2545

512.322.8319 (Fax)